

Message Text

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FOR NSC:HUBERMAN
DOD/OSD:SLOCOMB
NASA:TERRELL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TSPA, PORG, UN
SUBJECT: UN OUTER SPACE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMM-
ITTEE: DEBATE ON COSMOS 954

1. SUMMARY: TWO FULL SESSIONS FEBRUARY 27 AND 28 DEVOTED
TO EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON COSMOS 954 RESULTING IN OVER-
WHELMING MAJORITY FAVORING CREATION OF S & T WORKING
GROUP TO STUDY QUESTIONS RELATING TO USES OF NUCLEAR POW-
ER SOURCES IN OUTER SPACE. CANADA, SWEDEN AND JAPAN STR-
ONGLY URGED CREATION OF WORKING GROUP AND WERE BROADLY
SUPPORTED BY L.A.'S, WE'S, AFRICANS, US AND COMMONWEALTH
COUNTRIES. USSR AND BULGARIA OPPOSED CREATING WORKING
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GROUP. GDR SUGGESTED THE ALTERNATIVE OF UN FINANCED
STUDY UNDER AUSPICES OF UN SECRETARIAT. DRAFTING GROUP
FORMED TO WORK MARCH 1 TO DEVELOP RELEVANT
SECTION OF SUBCOMMITTEE FINAL REPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON COSMOS 954 BEGINNING
AFTERNOON SESSION FEBRUARY 27, CANADA LED OFF WITH PRO-

POSAL TO ESTABLISH TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UNDER THE S & T SUBCOMMITTEE WITH PARTICIPATION BY ALL SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS FROM APPROPRIATE UN ORGANIZATIONS. BECAUSE OF INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT VIEWS OF ALL DELS ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW. FULL CANADIAN PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN DOC. NO. A/AC.105/C.1/L.103 POUCHED IO/UNP.

3. SWEDEN SUPPORTED CANADIAN PROPOSAL. IN PRIOR AGREED SCHEDULE OF SPEAKERS US SPOKE TO SUPPORT CANADIAN PROPOSAL AND TO PRESENT FACTUAL INFORMATION ON CURRENT US PROGRAMS, PRACTICES AND POLICIES. US PRESENTATION, SUMMARIZED SEPTEL WAS WELL RECEIVED.

4. FOLLOWING US PRESENTATION JAPAN MADE FORMAL REQUEST AT CLOSING OF FEBRUARY 27 MEETING FOR QUOTE THE OTHER LAUNCHING STATE UNQUOTE TO MAKE A COMPARABLE PRESENTATION TO THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE.

5. IN MORNING SESSION FEBRUARY 28 AUSTRALIA SUPPORTED CANADIANS.

6. NIGERIA SUPPORTED CANADIANS AND SUGGESTED FORMATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL REGIME USING STANDARDS QUOTE SUCH AS THOSE PRESENTED TO US YESTERDAY BY THE USDEL UNQUOTE. ALSO SUPPORTED JAPAN'S REQUEST THAT USSR MAKE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON ITS USE OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN SPACE. CONFIDENTIAL

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7. MEXICO SUPPORTED CREATION OF THE WORKING GROUP AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT EVERY COUNTRY WILL COOPERATE ENTHUSIASTICALLY IN ITS WORK.

8. USSR NOTED S & TSC HAS NO INSTRUCTION FROM THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE (OSC) TO CONSIDER THIS MATTER. THEY ARGUED SUBCOMMITTEE HAS NO RIGHT TO CARRY ON THIS DISCUSSION AND THUS INCUR UNAUTHORIZED EXPENSES. COMPLAINED THAT US PRESENTATION TOOK UP HALF OF ONE SESSION AND SOVDEL WAS NOT SURE WE HAD TIME FOR SUCH EXTENDED STATEMENTS. SOVDEL DECLARED ANY TECHNOLOGICAL DEVICES FOR DOING WORK CAN GET OUT OF CONTROL AND HAVE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES, REFERRING TO CARS, TRUCKS, AIRPLANES, ETC. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO STOP USING TECHNOLOGY BECAUSE IT INVOLVES RISKS. USSR IS NOT PREPARED TO RESPOND TO US PRESENTATION BECAUSE DEL DOES NOT INCLUDE APPROPRIATELY QUALIFIED SPECIALISTS. SOVS THEN POINTED OUT USSR HAD ONLY ONE SUCH ACCIDENT WITH SATELLITES WHILE OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE HAD SEVERAL, AND SOVDEL COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY SO MUCH ATTENTION WAS BEING PAID TO THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT. SOV REPRESENTATIVE FEDOROV DECLARED USSR OPPOSES S & TSC TAKING ANY DECISIONS

ON ANY ACTIONS AND SERIOUSLY DOUBTED THAT PROPOSED WORK-
ING GROUP COULD DO ALL THE WORK PROPOSED. SOVDEL NOTED
MANY VARIED EXPERTS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH QUES-
TIONS SUCH AS: ALTERNATE SPACE POWER SOURCES, VARIABILITY
IN SPACECRAFT ORBITS, DESTRUCTION AND DISPERSAL OF SPACE-
CRAFT AND COMPONENT PARTS, AND OTHER SIMILARLY TECHNICAL
SUBJECTS.

9. SOVDEL EXPRESSED VIEW IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO INFORM
OSC OF VIEWS EXPRESSED IN GENERAL DEBATE AND LEAVE TO OSC
DECISION ON WHAT CAN BE DONE. SOVDEL DECLARED IT UNLIKELY
S & TSC WOULD REACH A CONSENSUS ON NEXT STEPS AT THIS STAGE.

10. BRAZIL NOTED A NEED TO INSURE THE SAFE USE OF OUTER
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SPACE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND DECLARED INTERNATIONAL CON-
CERN SHOULD BE ADDRESSED ASAP BECAUSE OF GLOBAL NATURE OF
CONSEQUENCES. BRAZIL STATED THAT NUCLEAR POWERS CONTINUED

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TO RESERVE TO THEMSELVES ALL DECISIONS ON CONTROL OF USE
OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND WEAPONS.

11. USDEL SPOKE TO URGE MOVING FORWARD IN RESPONSIVE
MANNER, SUPPORTED CANADIAN DEL AND OFFERED BRIEF REBUTTAL
TO BRAZILIAN STATEMENT BY NOTING SPACE POWERS ARE NOT IN
EXCLUSIVE OR UNILATERAL CONTROL OF USES AND ACTIONS RELAT-
ING TO NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND WEAPONS, REFERRING TO TEST
BAN TREATY, IAEA REGULATIONS, AND CONTINUING ATTENTION TO
THIS MATTER BY OTHER UN ORGANIZATIONS.

12. SOVDEL SUPPORTED US STATEMENT REFUTING BRAZIL. REIT-
ERATED VIEW THAT OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE SHOULD DECIDE ON
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NEXT STEPS AND DECLARED THAT IF NATIONS OF THE WORLD
ARE REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT NUCLEAR POLLUTION THEY SHOULD
REACH EARLY AGREEMENT ON PROHIBITION OF ATMOSPHERIC TEST-
ING AND OTHER NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONTROLS AND STOP FOCUSING
ON THIS MINOR INCIDENT.

13. ARGENTINA SUPPORTED CANADIAN PROPOSAL.

14. BULGARIA REPEATED ALL SOVIET ARGUMENTS AND NOTED SETT-
ING UP WORKING GROUP ENTAILS SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL IM-
PLICATIONS. UN SYSTEM REQUIRES PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL
ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ASSEMBLY BY OUTER
SPACE COMMITTEE. CONSEQUENTLY, DECISION ON
WORKING GROUP COULD NOT BE TAKEN BY S & TSC.

15. FRG SUPPORTED CANADIAN PROPOSAL AND EXPRESSED APPRECIA-
TION FOR US OPENNESS, FOR THE FORTHCOMING PRESENTATION,
AND OBVIOUS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE.

16. NIGERIA NOTED NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS ON THE GROUND SHOULD
BE EXTENDED TO USES IN SPACE. THE NECESSARY FIRST STEP IS
TO ADOPT CANADIAN PROPOSAL. URGED ADOPTION IMMEDIATELY.

17. GDR NOTED POTENTIAL VALUE AND RISKS OF USING NUCLEAR
POWER SOURCES IN SPACE. NOTED THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOME
RISK ON UNCONTROLLED RE-ENTRY OF NUCLEAR AND OTHER EARTH
ORBITTING SATELLITES. MEDIA FANNING FLAMES OF CRITICISM
DOES NOT HELP. EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO US FOR QUOTE
ITS VERY INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE SHOW-AND-TELL UNQUOTE.
GDR SAID IT WOULD BE WISE AND DESIRABLE TO REQUEST SECRE-

TARIAT TO PREPARE A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY IN COOPERATION WITH
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND USING VOLUNTARY INPUTS FROM STATES.
SUCH INFORMAL STUDY COULD BE CIRCULATED BEFORE NEXT MEET-
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ING.

18. UK SUPPORTED CANADIAN PROPOSAL AND NOTED IN RESPONSE
TO BULGARIA THAT UNLESS SUBCOMMITTEE MAKES A SPECIFIC
RECOMMENDATION THERE WILL BE NOTHING TO STUDY THE FINAN-
CIAL IMPLICATIONS OF. URGED EARLY ADOPTION OF CANADIAN
PROPOSAL TO FACILITATE WORKING GROUP FORMATION.

19. VENEZUELA SUPPORTED CANADIAN PROPOSAL.

20. JAPAN EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH SOVDEL THAT ISSUES WERE
COMPLEX AND OBVIOUSLY REQUIRED AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF EX-
PERTS TO ADDRESS. SAW NEED TO BEGIN WORK IMMEDIATELY AND
APPEALED TO USSR NOT TO OBJECT TO S & TSC RECOMMENDING
CREATION OF WORKING GROUP.

21. IN BRIEF MAIDEN SPEECH CAMEROON SAID IT BELIEVES
S & TSC HAS FULL AUTHORITY TO SET UP A WORKING GROUP AND
SUPPORTED DOING SO AT THIS SESSION. THANKED US FOR ITS
INFORMATIVE PRESENTATION.

22. FRANCE URGED EARLIEST POSSIBLE ACTION ON CANADIAN PRO-
POSAL IN ORDER TO PROTECT INTERESTS OF WORLD POPULA-
TION.

23. EGYPT DECLARED OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE TO
ADDRESS ISSUE AND TAKE ACTION FOR THE SAFETY OF MANKIND.
PREDICTED WE WILL SEE MORE ACCIDENTS OF THIS KIND, MORE
SPACE DEBRIS WILL RE-ENTER. AGREED WITH US POSITION RE-
GARDING REGULATORY REGIME AND HOPED THAT USSR WOULD PART-
ICIPATE IN THE WORKING GROUP AND CONTRIBUTE TO ITS SUCCESS.

24. PHILIPPINES SUPPORTED CANADIAN PROPOSAL.

25. NETHERLANDS SUPPORTED CANADIAN PROPOSAL AND REPLIED TO
SOVIET AND BULGARIAN CONCERN ABOUT PRESS DISTORTIONS BY
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NOTING THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT FALSE PRESS REPORTS IS TO
PUBLISH THE FACTS. EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THE SOVIET UNION
HAS PUBLISHED SO FEW FACTS ABOUT 954 AND NOTED THAT S

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& TSC HAS LEARNED MORE ABOUT THIS SOVIET SATELLITE FROM
CANADA THAN FROM THE USSR. APPEALED TO USSR TO DISPELL
WORLD ANXIETY BY PROVIDING FACTS AS US HAS DONE. EXPRESS-
ED VIEW CANADIAN PROPOSAL WAS BEST WAY TO OBTAIN A MULTI-
LATERAL REGIME TO REGULATE OR CONTROL USE OF NUCLEAR
POWER SOURCES IN SPACE.

26. INDIA NOTED VERY SUBSTANTIAL CONSENSUS BY SUBCOMMITTEE
AND URGED A DECISION BE TAKEN TO SET UP THE WORKING GROUP.
IF CONSENSUS CANNOT BE REACHED, THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S REPORT
SHOULD REFLECT VIEWS EXPRESSED SO THAT OSC CAN MAKE DE-
CISION. SUPPORTED GDR PROPOSAL FOR INTERIM STUDY BY
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27. CANADA NOTED THEIR PROPOSAL WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE DEFINITIVE AND INVITED REVISIONS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT BY ALL DELS. REFERRING TO POPULARLY HELD VIEW OF UN AS INACTIVE AND BUREAUCRATIC, URGED THAT ON THIS SUBJECT UN BE RESPONSIVE, ACT NOW AND MAKE OBVIOUS, NECESSARY DECISIONS.

28. USSR DEL ASKED IF WORKING GROUP CAN BE CREATED WITHOUT UNGA APPROVAL. SECRETARIAT READ FROM UNGA 1976 RESOLUTION 31/140 WHICH MAKES CLEAR NEW SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATION REQUIRING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED WITHOUT ASSEMBLY APPROVAL.

29. CANADA ACCEPTED THIS DECLARATION BUT URGED CONSENSUS RECOMMENDATION TO OSC TO SEEK SUCH APPROVAL BY UNGA.

30. CHAIRMAN CARVER OF AUSTRALIA CONCLUDED SESSION RECOMMENDING THAT WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 BE DEVOTED TO WORKING GROUP CHARGED WITH DEVELOPING DRAFT PORTION OF FINAL REPORT RELATING TO COSMOS 954 DISCUSSION.

31. COMMENT: DESPITE SOVIET ISOLATION IN DEBATE, USSR APPEARS INTRANSIGENT ON THIS ISSUE. SOVDELOFFS ADMIT PRIVATELY THAT THEY HAVE NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOSCOW AND HENCE CANNOT CONCUR IN WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHMENT. PRIVATELY SOVDEL MEMBERS BELIEVE MOSCOW WILL HAVE TO YIELD AT OSC IN JUNE. USDEL WOULD NOT COUNT ON THAT. YOUNG

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